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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
for the Year  
1955.



SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

Council Offices, Salcombe, South Devon.

Telephone : SALCOMBE 208.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Council Offices, Manor House,  
Kingsbridge, South Devon.

CLERK TO MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH.

Miss J. Palk.

Telephone : KINGSBRIDGE 2004.

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SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices, Salcombe, South Devon.

Telephone : SALCOMBE 63

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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : Dr. R. H. DUMMETT, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : Mr. R. J. NICHOLS, A.M.I.S.E.,  
A.I.A.S., M.R.San. I.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Report for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

This work has been carried out by Dr. Smales, as Medical Officer of Health, and the Report has been compiled by Members of the Public Health Department.

The health of the district has continued to be satisfactory.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) : 1,297.

Population : The Registrar General's estimate of the  
resident population : 2,450.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1955) according to the  
Rate Books : 939.

Rateable Value : £25,004.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £100.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS :

	TOTAL	M	F
Legitimate	32	15	17
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population : 13.06.

STILL BIRTHS : Nil.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births : Nil.

DEATHS : 44.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident  
population : 17.96



DEATHS (from Puerperal Causes) : Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under one year of age : 2.

DEATH RATE - All Infants per 1,000 Live Births : 6.25

Legitimate Infants per 1,000

Legitimate Live Births : 6.25

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000

Illegitimate Live Births : Nil.

DEATHS OF INFANTS under 4 weeks of age : Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

		M	F
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ... ..	1	-
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis .. ...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease ... ..	-	-
4.	Diphtheria ... ..	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough ... ..	-	-
6.	Meningoccal Infections ... ..	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis .. ...	-	-
8.	Measles... ..	-	-
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Disease ... ..	-	-
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .. ...	-	-
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ... ..	3	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	-	-
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	-	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. ...	-	2
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..	2	-
16.	Diabetes... ..	-	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..	4	5
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina . ... ..	1	3
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease .. ...	1	-
20.	Other Heart Disease ... ..	6	1
21.	Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	-	-
22.	Influenza ... ..	-	-
23.	Pneumonia ... ..	-	1
24.	Bronchitis ... ..	-	-
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System .. ...	2	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	-	-
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ...	-	2
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ... ..	-	-
31.	Congenital Malformations . ... ..	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases ... ..	2	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents .. ...	-	-
34.	All other Accidents ... ..	-	1
35.	Suicide .. ...	1	-
36.	Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	-	-

TOTALS

23 21

The conditions of occupation and of environment have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality. Salcombe is well-known as a holiday resort and yachting centre. During the summer months - June to September - the population is practically doubled by the influx of visitors.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and Medical Officer of the South Devon Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service provide a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, for the investigation of communicable disease, and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice-cream and foodstuffs, etc.

This new Laboratory is of great assistance, and I am grateful for their willing co-operation at all times.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION are carried out through the General Practitioner Service or at Schools, School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres by the County Council through the County Health Services. Supplies of Diphtheria Antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter, and Vaccine Lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provide 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts :-

Men's ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 beds
Women's Ward	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 beds
Children's Cots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Private Wards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 (1 bed each)

#### ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Cases of Infectious Disease are sent to the Scott Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

#### MIDWIVES

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There is one practising Midwife in the district.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

There is a centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

## VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT

At the Venereal Disease Department, City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or 'bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the Ministry of Health. There is one such Practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

## X-RAYS

The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple and Plymouth.

## OPEN-AIR SCHOOL

The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association as in-patients at Exeter and Plymouth. For out-patients there is a Clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic, which deals with this district as well, is held at Hartley House, Mannamead, Plymouth.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

The Ambulance Service throughout Devon is operated in accordance with Section 27 (2) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Voluntary Organisations. Infectious cases in the Plymouth Infectious Area are carried, by agreement, in the Plymouth Infectious Ambulance.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1955

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total cases notified</u>
Poliomyelitis	2
Measles	10
Scarlet Fever	1
	<u>13</u>



# TUBERCULOSIS

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1955

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>		<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 70	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

The source of the water for the district is at South Brent, and the supply and distribution continues to be maintained by the South Devon Water Board, being satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows :-

Ministry of Health classification for piped supplies

<u>Class 1.</u>	<u>Class 2.</u>	<u>Class 3.</u>	<u>Class 4.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
23	5	3	1	32

Three samples were taken of spring water in the district, and two samples of wells were taken - all showed being satisfactory.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of refuse in all parts of the district has been carried out.

### HOUSING

The Council does not contemplate building any more houses.

### FOOD INSPECTIONS

The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :-

8 tins of meat; 2 tins of condensed milk; 6 tins of pilchards;  
2 tins of carrots; 4 tins of fruit; 2 tins of tomatoes;  
100 1/2 lb packets of tea.

Assistance has been given to carry out meat inspection duties in the Rural District area, whilst the Kingsbridge Rural District Council Sanitary Inspector has been on holiday.

### BAKEHOUSES

The 3 bakehouses were inspected, and were kept in a satisfactory condition.

### ICE CREAM

16 samples of ice cream were taken - all satisfactory.

### SCHOOLS

There are 3 schools in the district.

During the year, no notices were received referring to children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

### DISINFECTION

Routine disinfection has been carried out after all notified cases of infectious disease.

### NUISANCES

18 complaints of nuisances were received, all of which were dealt with by informal action.

### CAMPING SITES

A count was taken in August, 1955, of the caravans and tents in the district, and the result was as follows :-

#### BEADON ROAD

O.S. 217/222	27 caravans 6 tents	-) Members of Caravan -) Club only.
O.S. 216	42 tents. 1 Mobile Provision Stores.	
O.S. 276	12 caravans. 28 tents.	

#### NORTH SANDS VALLEY

O.S. 354	18 tents.
O.S. 355	20 tents.

#### MOULT HILL (COLLATON ROAD)

O.S. 369	3 caravans.
O.S. 358	6 tents.
O.S. 368	1 caravan. 16 tents. 6 caravans.

#### SOUTHERN MILL (SOUTH SANDS)

O.S. 441/448	8 caravans. 16 tents.
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### SEWERAGE

The numerous small outfalls in the harbour continue to exist and are periodically cleared and kept in order.



FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PREScribed PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. in Register.	Inspections.	No. of written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	19	15	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	27	20	-	-

JULY, 1956.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,  
R. B. WALKER.  
Medical Officer of Health.